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ARTICLES OF FAITH

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COVENANT

OF THE

MARINER'S CHURCH,

BOSTON.

BOSTON:
PRESS OF T. R. MARVIN, 42 CONGRESS STREET.
1854.

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1854.

HYMN.

'Tis done—the great transaction 's done;
I am my Lord's, and he is mine:
He drew me, and I followed on,
Rejoiced to own the call divine.

Now rest—my long divided heart—
Fixed on this blissful centre, rest—
Here have I found a nobler part,
Here heavenly pleasures fill my breast.

High Heaven, that hears the solemn vow,
That vow renewed shall daily hear;
Till in life's latest hour I bow,
And bless in death a bond so dear.

From 5498.11
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May 31, 1869

MARINER'S CHURCH.

The first systematic exertions to promote religion among Seamen in Boston, it is believed, were made by a Society of Gentlemen, formed in the year 1812. The object of that Society was to print and distribute religious Tracts among Sailors, and to encourage the establishment of a religious service on board vessels when at sea. An edition of several tracts was published, and partly distributed. The labors of that Society soon ceased.

In the year 1816 another Society was formed, called "The Boston Society for the Religious and Moral Instruction of the Poor," under whose patronage a religious service was established for the special benefit of Seamen. The first meeting was held on the first Sabbath in August, in the year 1818, in a sail loft under the Observatory on Central wharf, where it was continued without interruption for more than eleven years. Connected with the meeting for Seamen, another meeting was held on the afternoon of each Sabbath at the "Mission House," in the west part of the city. On the 30th of December, 1823, a church was organized, comprising persons who attended both these meetings, denominated "The Mariner's Church," to which additions were made from time to time, and the ordinances of the gospel regularly administered. After three years the meeting-house in

Green street was built, and the Rev. Dr. JENKS, who had officiated as preacher to the Seamen from the first opening of the meeting, was requested to settle there. The greater part of the church chose to remove with him, and the name was changed to "Green Street Church." This took place on the 25th of October, 1826. Preaching was still continued to the Seamen under the auspices of the Religious and Moral Society, until January, 1828, when "The Boston Seaman's Friend Society" was formed. This Society was incorporated in 1829, and a meeting-house for Seamen was built on the easterly side of Fort Hill during the same year. The house was publicly dedicated to the worship of God on the first day of January, 1830, and measures were soon taken for the organization of a church. There were in the stated congregation, six persons, members of different churches, besides two others who had been dismissed from the former "Mariner's Church," at the time the name of it was changed, for the express purpose of becoming connected with a church in the seaman's meeting whenever one should be formed. A council was invited, and on January 20th, 1830, these persons, with one by profession, were organized into a church denominated "The Mariner's Church." The whole number of persons received to its communion, up to January, 1854, was two hundred and forty-five. Of these, sixty-five remain, the others having either removed their connections to other churches, or gone to their final reward. Some have gone out from us, being not of us.

On the 13th of February, 1830, the Church made choice of the Rev. JONATHAN GREENLEAF as their regular Pastor, which office he held till November 22, 1833. The Rev. D. M. LORD was the second Pastor of the Church, from November, 1835, to July, 1848. The

Rev. G. W. Bourne, the third Pastor, was installed February, 1849, and continues to the present time.

The house of worship on Fort Hill, which was erected in 1839, was destroyed by fire together with the Sailor's Home, July 10, 1852.

Being thus destitute of a place of worship for the Mariner's Church, the Boston Seaman's Friend Society purchased of the Christian Society their house of worship, at the corner of Sea and Summer streets, which, after being repaired, was publicly dedicated to the worship of God, December 28, 1852; and the church and congregation formerly worshiping at the Mariner's Church on Fort Hill, entered it with thankful hearts.

The stated officiating ministers to Seamen, since the establishment of the meeting, have been the following, viz.: Rev. William Jenks, D. D., from 1818 to 1826; Rev. Stephen Bailey, from 1826 to 1828; Rev. Jonathan Greenleaf, from 1828 to 1833; Rev. D. M. Lord, from 1834 to 1847; Rev. G. W. Bourne, from 1847 to the present time.

FORM OF ADMISSION.

ADDRESS.

BELOVED :

You have presented yourselves before God and this congregation, to make a solemn confession of your religious faith, and to take upon yourselves everlasting obligations. We trust you have duly considered the nature of the professions you are about to make, and of the engagements into which you are about to enter. They are solemn and momentous, and upon their faithful observance your eternal happiness will depend.

But be not disheartened. If you are prepared by divine grace to give yourselves away as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, you will receive strength and wisdom to aid you, and finally be made partakers of eternal blessedness.

Attend then to the

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. You believe that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, are one God, who created, upholds, and governs all things, and is the only proper object of religious worship.

ART. 2. You believe that the Scriptures of the Old

and New Testaments were given by divine inspiration, and contain the only perfect rule of faith and practice.

Art. 3. You believe that all mankind are by nature destitute of holiness, and inclined to evil.

Art. 4. You believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has made an atonement for sin, through which pardon and salvation is offered to all.

Art. 5. You believe that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is necessary to salvation.

Art. 6. You believe that God has established a church in the world, and that none should be admitted to its ordinances, except such as give evidence of faith in Jesus Christ.

Art. 7. You believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are the only sacraments, and that these should be observed in the church of Christ to the end of time.

Art. 8. You believe in a final judgment, and that the happiness of the righteous, and the misery of the wicked, will be alike eternal.

All these things you truly profess and heartily believe.

[The ordinance of baptism to be administered.]

You will now enter into covenant with God and with this church.

COVENANT.

In the belief of these truths, you do now, in a serious and solemn manner, avouch the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to be your God, and give yourself up to Him, to be His, His wholly and forever.

You receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your all-sufficient and divine Redeemer, the Holy Ghost as your sanctifier,

and adopt the Holy Scriptures as your perfect and only guide.

You solemnly engage to maintain the public worship of God on the Sabbath, and attend upon his daily worship in the family and in secret, as you have opportunity. You promise, as Providence shall permit, to attend upon the sacraments of the New Testament, baptism, and the Lord's supper, to submit yourself to the watch of your brethren, receiving reproofs, if need be, with all humility, and supporting church discipline faithfully, according to the rules prescribed in the gospel.

You engage to watch over your heart and life in the fear of the Lord, and guard against everything which may bring dishonor upon the cause of religion in the world, and in every proper method to seek the prosperity of this church, and all our sister churches.

And, connected as we are with those "who go down to the sea," you especially engage to exert yourself, in every possible way, to promote religion among seamen, that God may be glorified in their salvation.

Thus you engage, relying solely on the blood of the everlasting covenant, for pardon and acceptance, as well as for grace and strength to perform these engagements.

[Here the members of the church will rise.]

In consequence of these professions and promises, we (the members of this church) affectionately receive you to our communion, and in the name of Christ declare you entitled to all its privileges. We welcome you to this fellowship with us in the blessings of the gospel, and on our part engage to watch over you, and seek your edification, as long as you continue among us. Hereafter you can never withdraw from the watch and communion of saints without a breach of covenant. And

now, beloved in the Lord, let it never be forgotten that you have come under solemn obligations, from which you cannot escape. Wherever you go, these vows will be upon you. They will follow you to the bar of God and will abide with you forever. The Lord guide and preserve you till death, and at last receive you and us to that blessed world, where our love and joy shall be forever perfect. AMEN.

STANDING RULES.

1. The officers of the church shall consist of

A Clerk, to keep the records :

A Treasurer, to receive all moneys belonging to the church, and pay them out by order of the same, rendering his account annually :

A Standing Committee, consisting of the pastor and deacons, with such others as the church may elect, for the examination of candidates : and

A Committee to superintend the singing.

These officers shall be chosen at the monthly meeting of the church in January, annually.

2. The sacrament of the Lord's supper shall be administered on the first Sabbath in every other month.

3. The church will hold a monthly meeting for devotion, and for the transaction of such appropriate business as may be necessary, on the Friday evening next preceding the first Sabbath of each month.

4. The Examining Committee will meet statedly on the Wednesday next preceding the monthly church meeting, for the purpose of examining candidates.

5. Persons wishing to unite with this church by profession, having been examined by the committee concerning their Christian experience, shall be reported to the church at the monthly meeting, and then remain on probation one month, at the end of which time, if no objection is made, they shall, by vote of the church, be publicly propounded, and after standing propounded at least two Sabbaths, may be received to communion.

6. Members of other churches dismissed and recom-

mended to this, having been before the Examining Committee, and by them reported to the church, shall remain on probation one month, when, if no objection appears, they shall be received to the church by vote.

The regulation in regard to time in both the foregoing instances may be dispensed with by special vote, in the case of seamen, who are bound to sea, provided the church is satisfied in other respects.

7. This church being by its constitution of a general nature, intended to meet the views of evangelical Christians of all denominations, and not adopting exclusively the peculiarities of any, will receive members by regular dismission and recommendation from an evangelical church of any denomination, and will dismiss its members to any such church, if requested.

8. Members of this church, except such as follow the sea, having removed their residence from this city for the space of one year, are expected to take a dismission to some other Christian church; and it shall be the duty of the clerk, at the monthly meeting in January, to report to the church the names of those members who have removed from the city, without complying with this rule.

9. Members of this church who shall voluntarily absent themselves, while residents of this city, from its public worship on the Sabbath, for the space of three months, shall be regarded as having violated the church covenant and shall be subject to church discipline. Such persons to be reported to the church by the clerk, at the monthly meetings of January, April, July and October.

10. All persons admitted to this church shall engage to abstain wholly from the use of ardent spirits, either as an article of drink or traffic.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

REV. GEORGE W. BOURNE, PASTOR.

MALE MEMBERS.

Barker, James
Berk, Joseph
Bean, John
Bourne, George W.
Breed, Aaron
Breed, Hubbard W.
Bunks, Christopher
Bunting, Ezra J.
Chany, John O.
Crafts, John
Derwent, John
Erving, Thomas A.
Evans, Evan
Fleetwood, M. G.
Gullifer, Artimus
Huddle, Robert
Jordan, William N.
Kirkly, George
Lusarder, Lemuel
McDonald, Alexander
Mooers, Thomas
Myrick, Samuel
Nelson, James
Pittee, James
Saunders, Felix
Scovell, Ezekiel
Spear, Nathaniel T.
Thompson, William
Tode, Andrew
Wilder, Eleazer
Williams, Heark

FEMALE MEMBERS.

Bailey, Mary
Barker, Abby D.
Bacon, Charlotte
Bean, Ann Jane
Bird, Frances A.
Bourne, Harriette G.
Bourne, Olive
Breed, Hannah M.
Breed, Almira G.
Burge, Eliza Ann
Chany, Mary A.
Cook, Hepzibah B.
Crafts, Abigail
Crosier, Susan
Curren, Mary
Decker, Lucy
Durant, Mary Ann
Erving, Sarah
Freeman, Sophia Ann
Gove, Lydia
Henry, Lucy
Houghton, Maria C.
Keep, Caroline
Lewis, Eliza P.
McClennen, Mary W.
Nelson, Mary
Norton, Priscilla M.
Preble, Rachel
Savage, Anna
Smith, Margaret
Sommers, Harriet
Tafts, Eliza
Watts, Charlotte
Wilder, Caroline M.